

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6482

BILL NUMBER: HB 1514

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 13, 2015

BILL AMENDED: Feb 12, 2015

SUBJECT: School board membership in Gary.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Brown C

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill reduces the number of members of the governing body of the Gary Community School Corporation from seven to five, beginning January 1, 2017. It provides that if a vacancy occurs on the governing body before January 1, 2017, the vacancy shall not be filled unless the vacancy reduces the number of members to fewer than five. It provides that three members of the governing body are elected at large by the voters of the school corporation and two members are appointed by the city executive. It provides that the individuals elected to the governing body at the 2014 general election serve as the three elected members of the governing body beginning January 1, 2017.

It reduces the number of members of the governing body of the School City of East Chicago from nine to five, beginning January 1, 2017. It provides that if a vacancy occurs on the governing body before January 1, 2017, the vacancy shall not be filled unless the vacancy reduces the number of members to fewer than five. It provides that three members of the governing body are elected at large by the voters of the city and two members are appointed by the city executive.

It requires the members of the Gary School board and the East Chicago school board appointed by the executive of their respective cities to have knowledge or experience and be familiar with issues related to school business, school finance, and school administration. It repeals and provides for expiration of statutes consistent with the new structure of the governing body.

Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Summary:* Election ballots in the Gary Community School Corporation (GCSC) and the School City of East Chicago (SCEC) may have to be modified to reflect the new structure of their respective governing body. Formatting ballots would minimally affect Lake County ballot

expenditures.

Decreasing the number of members of the governing body in the GCSC by two would decrease the total amount of the annual stipend awarded to members by up to about \$4,000, plus any per diem expenditures. Decreasing the number of members of the governing body in the SCEC by four would also decrease the total amount of the annual stipend awarded to members by up to about \$8,000, plus any per diem expenditures.

The workload of the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration (which processes nomination petitions from school district candidates for the GCSC) would probably decrease. The workload of the office of the Clerk of the Lake Circuit Court is indeterminate. This office process at-large petitions from candidates in the GCSC and nomination petitions from candidates in the SCEC. Under this bill, the number of at-large petitions from candidates in the GCSC would probably increase while the number of nomination petitions from candidates in the SCEC could increase or remain at its current level.

Under the bill, the six members representing the school districts in the GCSC would be replaced by two appointed members and two members elected at-large; the six members of the governing body currently representing the school districts in the SCEC would be replaced by two appointed members.

(Revised) Additional Information: Under current law, the governing body of the GCSC consists of seven elected members: one from each of the six school districts and one at-large member. Candidates representing the school districts have to file their nomination petitions with the Board of Elections and Registration; at-large candidates file their petitions with the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. School board members may receive per diem and a stipend of up to \$2,000 annually.

Under this bill beginning in 2017, the number of members of the governing body of the GCSC would be reduced from seven to five. Members would no longer be specifically elected from each school district. The number of at-large members would be increased from one to three; the city executive would appoint the two additional members.

Under current law, the governing body of the SCEC consists of nine elected members: one from each of the six school districts and three at-large members. Candidates have to file their petitions with the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. School board members are entitled to per diem and a stipend of up to \$2,000 annually.

Under this bill beginning in 2017, the number of members of the governing body of the SCEC would be reduced from nine to five. Members would no longer be specifically elected from each school district. The number of at-large members would remain at three. Of the remaining two members, one would be appointed by the city executive, and one by the city legislative body.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Gary Community School Corporation; Lake County Board of Elections and Registration; Office of the Clerk of the Lake Circuit Court; City executive, Gary; School City of East Chicago; City executive, City of East Chicago; Legislative body, City of East Chicago.

Information Sources:

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